

## Saquatucket Harbor Subwatershed Harwich, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Saquatucket Harbor Subwatershed is located in Harwich and has an area of 432 acres. Saquatucket Harbor opens into Nantucket Sound through the Andrews River.

The Division of Marine Fisheries Sanitary Survey found that there is an impact on the harbor from storm drains on Route 28.

The Town of Harwich water system is supplied by twelve wells located in South, East, and North Harwich, which draw water from the Monomoy Lens aquifer. Approximately 90% of the town is supplied by public water. The need for additional water storage in Harwich led to the purchase of land for a water tower north of Aunt Edie's Pond in 2000, but plans to borrow \$3.1 million to build the tank have been put on hold.

There are no public sewers in Harwich. In 2002, the Harwich Planning Board was beginning to hold informal discussions on how best to solve wastewater contamination of the town's harbors.

Harwich has 5,000 acres of vacant developable land. If one half of that is protected, it would mean that 26 percent of the total available upland would be set aside in the town. Currently, just eight percent of available open space is preserved in Harwich.

The Harwich Conservation Trust developed a priority open space project with the help of a land protection specialist with the Cape Cod Compact of Conservation Trusts. The project identified the top 200 parcels for open space acquisition. The top 20 undeveloped parcels in the list of 200 total 290 acres and all contain threatened wildlife habitat. The total assessed value of the land is \$6 million. The assessed value of all 200 parcels is \$23 million and totals 1,434 acres. Twenty percent of the 200 parcels are near or adjacent to freshwater ponds.

### Stewards:

- Harwich Shellfish and Marine Water Quality Committee  
([www.vsv.cape.com/~harharb/main6.html](http://www.vsv.cape.com/~harharb/main6.html))

### Studies conducted in the watershed:

- Cape Cod Coastal Embayment Project (A Nitrogen Loading Analysis of Saquatucket Harbor). 1998. Cape Cod Commission.
- In November 2001, the MA Department of Environmental Protection completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report for Harwich water supplies. The SWAP report identifies land uses within water supply protection areas that may be potential sources of contamination. It is available from the DEP online at <http://www.state.ma.us/dep>.
- Cape Cod Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes. 2001. Cape Cod Commission.
- Monomoy Capacity Study. Cape Cod Commission.

### Who is collecting water quality data and where:

- Division of Marine Fisheries, Harwich Natural Resource Department, and water quality volunteers: mouth, mid harbor, and incoming creek.

- Harwich Natural Resources Department proposed in 2001 to expand upon the current sampling locations and begin monitoring many of the 33 ponds in Harwich. Samples will be analyzed for the nitrogen series, orthophosphates, total phosphates, and chlorophyll a.

#### Management actions taken:

- The coastal waters of Harwich were designated a No Discharge Area by the state. The discharge of all boat wastewater, even if it is treated, is prohibited.

#### Subwatershed facts: (For data sources see the Appendix)

- 21 E sites: 2, located at N/F Kelsey's Garage, Main St. and the Mobil Station on Main St.
- Solid waste sites: none
- Zone IIs located in this watershed: 1
- Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPAs): 1
- Percent of the undeveloped land that is protected (according to 1985/1990 data): 26%
- Acres of existing wetlands: 36
- Certified vernal pools: none
- Named freshwater ponds: none
- Named rivers or creeks: Andrews River
- 1998 Massachusetts 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies: Saquatucket Harbor – pathogens.
- Shellfish growing areas: Saquatucket Harbor is under a seasonal closure. (The area went from prohibited to seasonal in 2000, but is in danger of losing that status, according to the Division of Marine Fisheries.)

#### Priorities:

- Initiate water quality monitoring program in Saquatucket Harbor for nutrients and bacteria to participate in the Estuaries Project, Southeastern Massachusetts Embayment Restoration. Work with Estuaries Project to develop a QAPP.
- Town of Harwich should continue to purchase potentially developable land located within the existing wellhead protection areas and areas for use as future well sites (SWAP Report, 2001).
- Implement BMPs for storm drains on Route 28. Investigate runoff from town parking lot.
- Install leaching catch basins during resurfacing of Route 28 (MA Highway Department).
- Acquire open space. Parcels considered a priority for acquisition for water supply protection and development Harwich Tracts 8, 10, 11, 18, 19, 23, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, and 41 were ranked as having medium or high water supply development potential in the Cape Cod Commission's *Priority Land Acquisition Assessment Project* (April 1999). These tracts are located throughout the Town of Harwich.
- Implement those salt marsh restoration projects identified in the 2001 *Cape Cod Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes* that have been evaluated and prioritized by the town. No sites are located within this subwatershed, but there are three sites to the east of it: Uncle Venie's Road restriction of channel off the Red River (Site HA-6), Wharf Road restriction of channel off the Red River (HA-7), and Deep Hole Road restriction of the Red River (Site HA-8/CH-1).
- Initiate water quality monitoring program for nutrients and bacteria. Work with the Estuaries Project to develop a QAPP.

**Recreation:**

Camping areas: none

Golf courses: none

Pathways and trails:

- [www.capecodcommission.org/pathways/trailguide.htm](http://www.capecodcommission.org/pathways/trailguide.htm)

Public access:

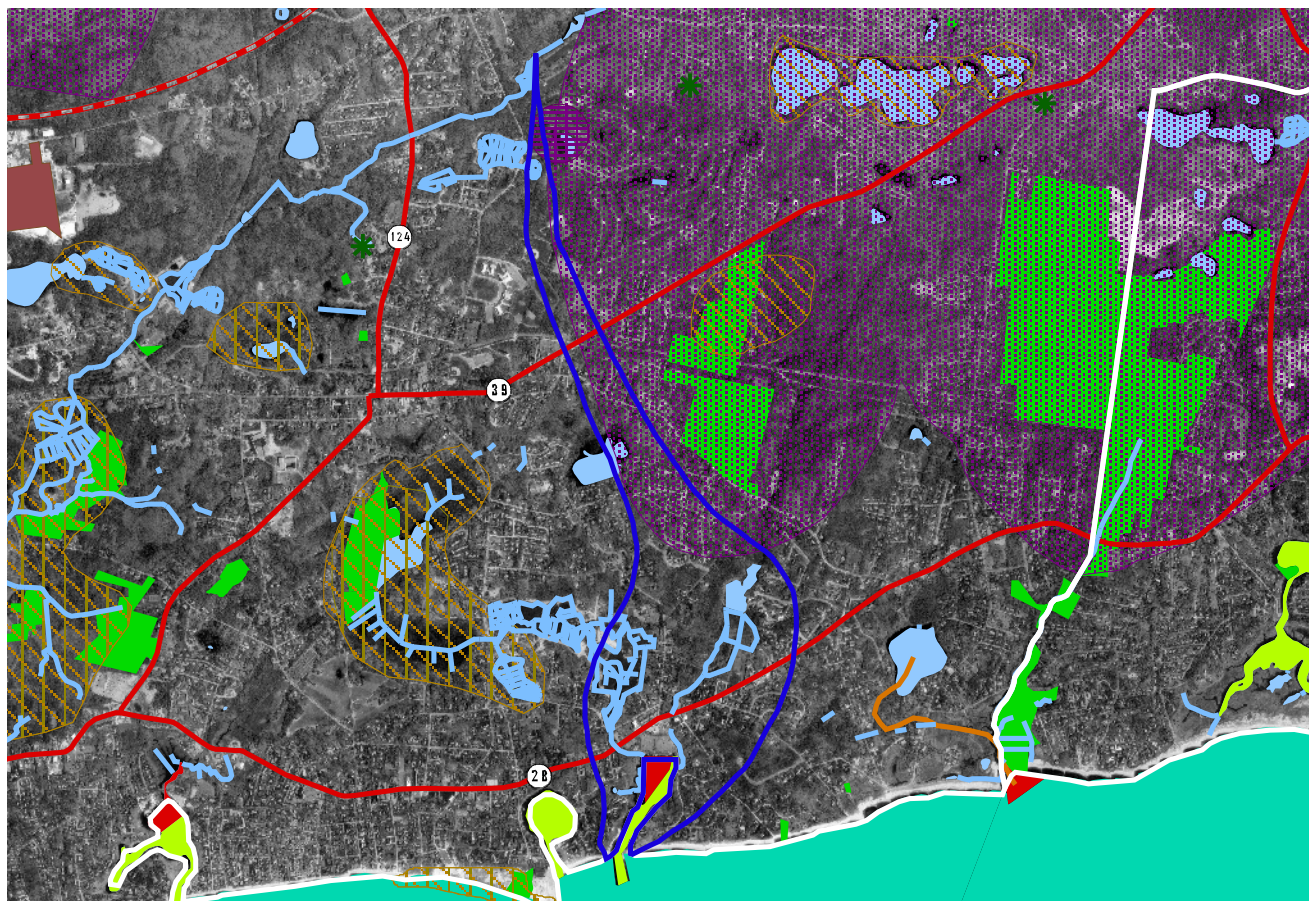
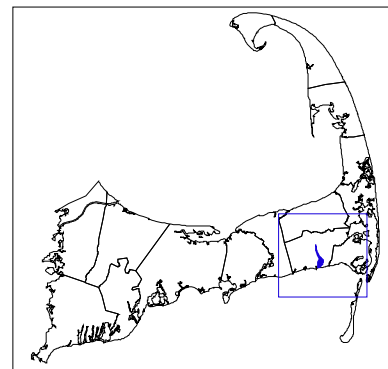
- [www.state.ma.us/dfwele/pab/pabSEmap.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/pab/pabSEmap.htm)

Public beaches and landings:

- No beaches or landings
- Marina in the harbor

# Saquatucket Harbor

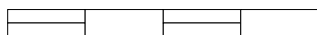
Harwich, MA



## Watershed Resources



0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles



### Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Data

- Certified Vernal Pool
- Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- Estimated Habitats of Rare Species

### Groundwater Protection Areas

- Interim Wellhead Protection Area
- Zone II
- Solid Waste Facility

Watershed Boundary

Anadromous Fish Run

### Shellfish Growing Areas

- APPROVED
- CONDITIONALLY APPROVED
- MANAGEMENT CLOSURE
- PROHIBITED
- RESTRICTED

Open Space

Streams

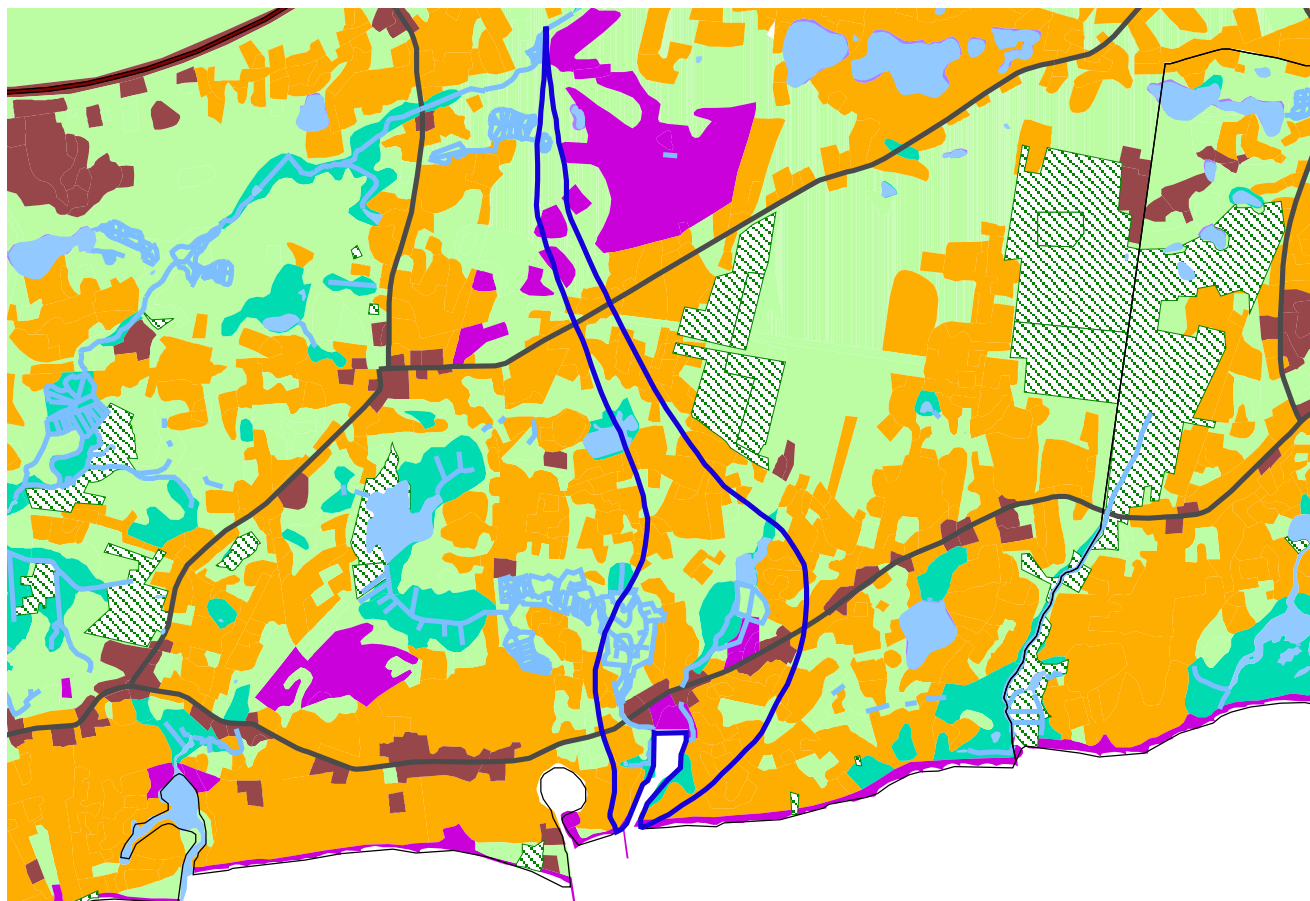
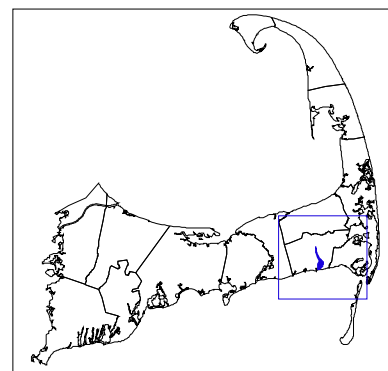
Ponds

Roads



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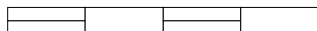
Harwich, MA



## Land Use



0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles



## Land Use

